

# URGENT ACTION

## RELEASE ACTIVISTS FROM ARBITRARY DETENTION

On September 16, 2023, four activists - Adolfo Campos, Abraão Pedro Santos, Gilson Morreira, and Hermenegildo Victor José - were arrested. On September 19, 2023, they were summarily tried, convicted and sentenced, without any evidence, to 2 years and 5 months in prison for 'disobedience and resisting orders' after an attempt to join a solidarity demonstration. In detention, the health conditions of Hermenegildo Victor José, Adolfo Campos, and Gilson Morreira have deteriorated due in large part to their denial of access to medical treatment. Their conviction and sentence stem solely from the peaceful exercise of their human rights. They must be immediately released.

### TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Second Urgent Action 115.23**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

### Minister of Justice and Human Rights

**Marcy Cláudio Lopes**

Rua 17 de Setembro  
Ingombota, Luanda, Angola  
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### Embassy of Angola in the United States

**Ambassador Agostinho Van-Dúnem**

2108 16th Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20009  
Email: [info@angola.org](mailto:info@angola.org)

Webform Contact: <https://angola.org/contact-us/>

Dear Minister,

I am writing to express grave concern about the health conditions of three activists, **Adolfo Campos**, **Hermenegildo Victor José (AKA Gildo das Ruas)**, and **Gilson Morreira (AKA Tanaice Neutro)**, who have been held in arbitrary detention since September 16, 2023, and to call for their immediate release as they are detained solely for peacefully exercising their human rights.

On August 1, 2024, Gildo das Ruas was diagnosed with spinal deviation and was recommended a wheelchair and lumbar correction prosthesis by the doctor. Meanwhile, Adolfo Campos is gradually losing his sight and has so far not received any medical treatment. Tanaice Neutro was initially placed in solitary confinement for 36 days, for no clear reason. He was due to have surgery in November 2023, but it did not take place, further complicating his health situation. He is currently suffering from pain in his back and legs.

The four activists, including **Abraão Pedro dos Santos (AKA Pensador)**, were arrested on September 16, 2023, hours before they were due to take part in a peaceful demonstration.

I urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure the immediate release of the four activists as their detention stems solely from their peaceful activism. I also call on you to ensure that the activists have immediate access to all necessary healthcare and that their detention conditions are in compliance with the Mandela Rules.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Adolfo Miguel Campos André** (44) is an activist and leader of the Angolan Revolutionary Movement. Father of four children, he works as head of assets for a local newspaper in Luanda. His activism began in 2011, when, along with other young people, he started a movement against the regime of former president, José Eduardo Dos Santos, who at the time had been in power for 32 years, marked by corruption scandals, social inequalities, and serious violations of human rights.

**Gildo das Ruas** (29) is an activist and member of the Malangina Resistance Movement. Father of two young daughters, Gildo das Ruas began attending demonstrations in 2014. In 2021, he was arbitrarily detained for six months in Malange province in connection with his peaceful activism.

**Abraão Pedro dos Santos** (37) is an activist and member of Sociedade Civil Constestatária Movement and leader of the Panterra Negra Revolutionary Movement. Father of two young children, Abraão Pedro dos Santos always showed up in peaceful demonstrations, for which he was arbitrarily detained several times, but this is the first time he has been convicted. On the day of the trial, when the judge announced the names of those who were sentenced, Abraão Pedro dos Santos' name was not mentioned – only Adolfo Campos, Tanaice Neutro, and Gildo das Ruas' were. Moments later, after the judge left the courtroom, the court writer was sent back to the room to read the summary of the trial. That was when Abraão Pedro dos Santos's name was added to the charge sheet, and he too was convicted.

**Tanaice Neutro** (36) is an activist who uses art to express his opinions on social problems such as poverty, inequalities, and corruption through Kuduro, an Angolan music type. In October 2022, Tanaice was sentenced to 15 months of suspended sentence for calling the president a clown. Since he refused to apologize to the president, even with a release order from the court, he was kept in prison beyond the terms of his sentence. He was finally released on June 23, 2023. He was only free for two months before his arrest with other three activists on September 16, 2023.

Following their arrests in September 2023, the public prosecutor initially accused the four activists of "outrage and injury to the President of the Republic". Amid various inconsistencies and lack of evidence, the charge was changed to 'disobedience and resisting orders'. During the four activists' trial, one of the officers on duty of the day of the solidarity demonstration testified in court that the activists followed the due process of law but even that was not enough to stop their conviction.

Amnesty International is concerned about the growing number of activists and human rights defenders being targeted by Angolan authorities, in clear violation of their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** Portuguese or your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** November 30, 2024

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Adolfo Campos, Gilson Morreira (AKA Tanaice Neutro), Hermenegildo Victor José (AKA Gildo das Ruas), Abraão Pedro Santos (AKA O filho da revolução\_pensador) (All he/him/his)

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr12/7522/2023/en/>